

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-4 and 6-10 and leaves claim 5 (unchanged). Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-10.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to Applicants claim of foreign priority with respect to the papers filed on September 29, 2003. Applicants hereby submit that the claim of priority on September 29, 2003 allegedly claiming priority with respect to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-337239 was in error and should be disregarded. Claim of priority was appropriate and is correct with respect to the claim priority submitted on February 3, 2004 along with the present application. The February 3, 2004 claim of priority claimed priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-393647. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Amendments were made to claim 1 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 1-6, 8 and 9 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 1-6, 8 and 9 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 1-6, 8 and 9 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 9 of the Office Action that claims 1-6, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection. Amendments were made to claims 1-6, 8 and 9 to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection. Therefore, claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

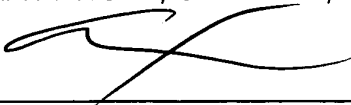
Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 13 of the Office Action that claims 7 and 10 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (1309.43472X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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